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Europäisches  
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Zweigstelle  
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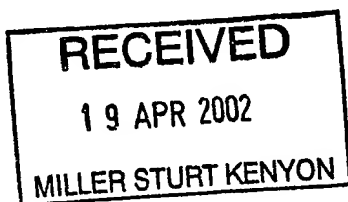
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Datum/Date  
19.04.02

Zeichen/Ref./Réf. <b>EPP13056A</b>	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. <b>99306260.3-2208-</b>
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire <b>SEIKO INSTRUMENTS INC.</b>	

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☐ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

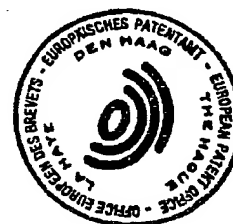
☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 1

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 99 30 6260

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	JP 09 201080 A (CANON INC) 31 July 1997 (1997-07-31) -& US 6 218 767 B1 (AKADA HIROSHI ET AL) 17 April 2001 (2001-04-17) * column 3, line 57 - column 6, line 67; claims 1-13; figures 1-4 *	1,2,8,9	H01L41/09
X	US 4 649 311 A (MUKOHJIMA HITOSHI ET AL) 10 March 1987 (1987-03-10) * column 4, line 56 - column 6, line 68; figures 7-12 *	1,9	
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A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1995, no. 06, 31 July 1995 (1995-07-31) & JP 07 067366 A (NIKON CORP), 10 March 1995 (1995-03-10) * abstract * -& JP 07 067366 A (NIKON CORP) 10 March 1995 (1995-03-10) * figures 1,3,8 *	1,9	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 12 April 2002	Examiner Köpf, C
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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EPO FORM 1503 03 92 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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EP 99 30 6260

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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12-04-2002

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